

Math 121 Class notes

Fall 2024

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1.1: Solutions of Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable

Definition.

A **function** f is a special relation between x and y such that each input x results in *at most* one y . The symbol $f(x)$ is read “ f of x ” and is called the **value of f at x**

Example. Let $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + x$. Evaluate the following:

$$f(1)$$

$$f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$f(-2)$$

$$f(0)$$

$$f(f(x))$$

Composite Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x . Then, the **composite functions** g of f (denoted $g \circ f$) and f of g (denoted $f \circ g$) are defined as:

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$$

Example. Let $g(x) = x - 1$. Find:

$$(g \circ f)(x)$$

$$(f \circ g)(x)$$

Operations with Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x and define the following:

Sum	$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$
Difference	$(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$
Product	$(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$
Quotient	$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ if $g(x) \neq 0$

Definition.

An **expression** is a meaningful string of numbers, variables and operations:

$$3x - 2$$

An **equation** is a statement that two quantities or algebraic expressions are equal:

$$3x - 2 = 7$$

A **solution** is a value of the variable that makes the equation true:

$$3(3) - 2 = 7$$

$$9 - 2 = 7$$

$$7 = 7$$

A **solution set** is the set of ALL possible solutions of an equation:

$3x - 2 = 7$ only has the solution $x = 3$,

$2(x - 1) = 2x - 2$ is true for all possible values of x .

Properties of Equality:

Substitution Property: The equation formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{aligned}3(x - 3) - \frac{1}{2}(4x - 18) &= 4 \\3x - 9 - 2x + 9 &= 4 \\x &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Addition Property: The equation formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an equation is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}x - 4 = 6 & x + 5 = 12 \\x - 4 + 4 = 6 + 4 & x + 5 + (-5) = 12 + (-5) \\x = 10 & x = 7\end{array}$$

Multiplication Property: The equation formed by multiplying both sides of an equation by the same *nonzero* quantity is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\frac{1}{3}x = 6 & 5x = 20 \\3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) = 3(6) & \frac{5x}{5} = \frac{20}{5} \\x = 18 & x = 4\end{array}$$

Solving a linear equation:

Using the properties of equality above, we can solve any linear equation in 1 variable:

Example. Solve $\frac{3x}{4} + 3 = \frac{x-1}{3}$

1. Eliminate fractions:

$$12\left(\frac{3x}{4} + 3\right) = 12\left(\frac{x-1}{3}\right)$$

2. Remove/evaluate parenthesis:

$$9x + 36 = 4x - 4$$

3. Use addition property to isolate the variable to one side:

$$9x + 36 \text{--}36 \text{--}4x = 4x - 4 \text{--}36 \text{--}4x$$

4. Use multiplication property to isolate variable:

$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{-40}{5}$$

5. Verify solution via substitution:

$$\underbrace{\frac{3(-8)}{4} + 3}_{-6 + 3 = -3} \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{\frac{(-8) - 1}{3}}_{\frac{-9}{3} = -3}$$

Example. Solve the following:

$$\frac{3x+1}{2} = \frac{x}{3} - 3$$

$$\frac{2x-1}{x-3} = 4 + \frac{5}{x-3}$$

Example. Solve $-2x + 6y = 4$ for y



Example. Suppose that the relationship between a firm's profit, P , and the number of items sold, x , can be described by the equation

$$5x - 4P = 1200$$

a) How many units must be produced and sold for the firm to make a profit of \$150?

b) Solve this equation for P in terms of x . Then, find the profit when 240 units are sold.

Definition.

An **inequality** is a statement that one quantity is greater than (or less than) another quantity.

Properties of Inequalities

Substitution Property: The inequality formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$5x - 4x + 2 < 6$$

$$x < 4 \Rightarrow \text{The solution set is } \{x : x < 6\}$$

Addition Property: The inequality formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an inequality is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$x - 4 < 6$$

$$x - 4 + 4 < 6 + 4$$

$$x < 10$$

$$x + 5 \geq 12$$

$$x + 5 + (-5) \geq 12 + (-5)$$

$$x \geq 7$$

Multiplication Property The inequality formed by multiplying both sides of an inequality by the same *positive* quantity is equivalent to the original inequality. The direction of the inequality is flipped when multiplying by a *negative* quantity:

$$\frac{1}{3}x > 6$$

$$3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) > 3(6)$$

$$x > 18$$

$$5x - 5 \leq 6x + 20$$

$$-x \leq 25$$

$$x \geq -25$$

Example. Solve

$$-x + 8 \leq 2x - 4$$

first by gathering the x variable on the left, then again on the right. See that the multiplication property holds in both cases. Plot the solution set on a numberline.



Example. Plot the following inequalities:

$$x \leq 2$$

$$x > -3$$



1.3: Linear Functions

Definition.

A **linear function** is a function of the form

$$y = f(x) = ax + b$$

where a and b are constants.

Example. $y = -2x + 8$



A linear function can be uniquely determined using only *two* distinct points.

Definition.

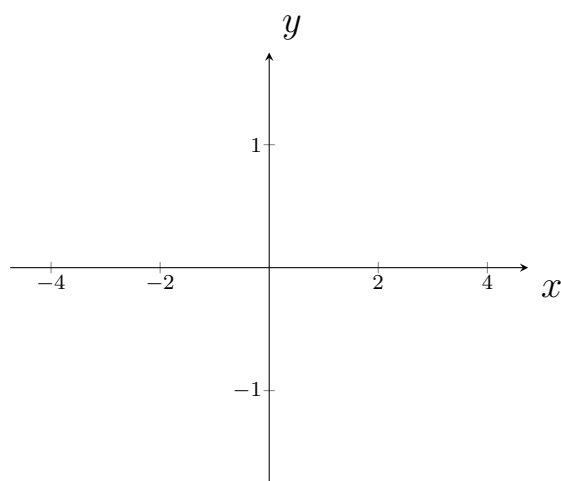
The point(s) where a graph intersects the axes are called intercepts. The x -coordinate of the point where the function intersects the x -axis is called the **x -intercepts**. The y -coordinate of the point where the function intersects the x -axis is called the **y -intercepts**.

- To solve for the y -intercept:
 - Set $x = 0$,
 - Solve for y .
- To solve for the x -intercept:
 - Set $y = 0$,
 - Solve for x .

Example. Find the intercepts and graph the following lines:

$$3x + 2y = 12$$

$$x = 4y$$



Definition.

If a nonvertical line passes through the points $P_1(x_1, y_1)$ and $P_2(x_2, y_2)$, its **slope**, denoted by m , is found using

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

Δy is “delta y ”, and represents the change in y

Δx is “delta x ”, and represents the change in x

Note: The slope of a vertical line is undefined.

Example. Find the slope of the line passing through the points $(-2, 1)$ and $(5, 3)$.

Note:

- Two distinct nonvertical lines are *parallel* if and only if their slopes are *equal*.
- Two distinct nonvertical lines are *perpendicular* if and only if their slopes are *negative reciprocals*:
e.g. If ℓ_1 has a nonzero slope m , then ℓ_2 is perpendicular if its slope is $-1/m$.

Point-slope form

Definition.

The equation of the line passing through the point (x_1, y_1) with slope m can be written in the point-slope form:

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

Example. Find the equation of each line that passes through the point $(-3, 4)$ and has

a slope of $m = \frac{1}{4}$

the point $(-2, 1)$ on the line

a slope of zero (horizontal)

an undefined slope (vertical)

Slope-intercept form

Definition.

The slope-intercept form of the equation of a line with slope m and y -intercept b is

$$y = mx + b$$

Example (Example 7, p.82). The population of U.S. males, y (in thousands), projected from 2015 to 2060 can be modeled by

$$y = 1125.9x + 142,960$$

where x is the number of years after 2000.

- Find the slope and y -intercept of the graph of this function.
- What does the y -intercept tell us about the population of U.S. males?
- Interpret the slope as a rate of change.

Forms of Linear Equations

General form: $Ax + By = C$

Point-slope form: $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$

Slope-intercept form: $y = mx + b$

Vertical line: $x = a$

Horizontal line: $y = b$

1.4: Graphs and Graphing Utilities

As graphing calculators are *not* required for this course, we will use Desmos:

desmos.com/calculator

Example. For a certain city, the cost C of obtaining drinking water with p percent impurities (by volume) is given by

$$C = \frac{120,000}{p} - 1200$$

The equation for C requires that $p \neq 0$, and because p is the percent impurities, we know $0 < p \leq 100$. Use the restriction on p and a graphing calculator to obtain an accurate graph of the equation.



1.5 Solutions of Systems of Linear Equations

$$\text{🍏} + \text{🍏} + \text{🍏} = 18$$

$$\text{🍏} + \text{🍌} + \text{🍌} = 14$$

$$\text{🍌} - \text{🍒} = 2$$

$$\text{🍒} + \text{🍏} + \text{🍌} = ?$$

Definition.

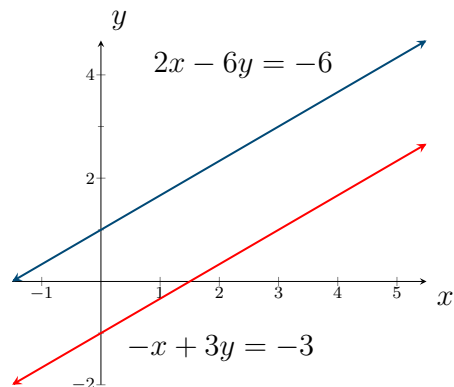
A **system of equations** is 2 (or more) equations. The ordered pairs (x, y) that satisfies *all* equations in the system are the **solutions** of the system.

When solving a system of linear equations, there are three possible outcomes:

1. No solution (*Inconsistent*),
2. Exactly one solution,
3. Infinitely many solutions (*Dependent*).

Example. Use graphing to find the solutions to the following systems

$$\begin{aligned}2x - 6y &= -6 \\ -x + 3y &= -3\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}4x + 3y &= 11 \\ 2x - 5y &= -1\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}-4x + 3y &= -2 \\ 8x - 6y &= 4\end{aligned}$$



Equivalent systems result when

1. One expression is replaced by an equivalent expression.
2. Two equations are interchanged.
3. A multiple of one equation is added to another equation.
4. An equation is multiplied by a nonzero constant.

Substitution Method

Example. Solve the system $\begin{cases} 2x + 3y = 4 \\ x - 2y = 3 \end{cases}$

1. Solve one equation for either one of the variables in terms of the other.

$$x = 2y + 3$$

2. Substitute this expression into the other equation to give the equation in one unknown.

$$2(\textcolor{red}{2}y + \textcolor{red}{3}) + 3y = 4$$

3. Solve this equation for the unknown.

$$4y + 6 + 3y = 4$$

$$7y = -2 \Rightarrow y = -\frac{2}{7}$$

4. Substitute solution into the equation in Step 1.

$$x = 2\left(-\frac{\textcolor{red}{2}}{\textcolor{red}{7}}\right) + 3 \Rightarrow x = \frac{17}{7}$$

5. Check the solution (x, y) .

$$2\left(\frac{\textcolor{red}{17}}{\textcolor{red}{7}}\right) + 3\left(-\frac{\textcolor{red}{2}}{\textcolor{red}{7}}\right) = 4$$

$$\left(\frac{\textcolor{red}{17}}{\textcolor{red}{7}}\right) - 2\left(-\frac{\textcolor{red}{2}}{\textcolor{red}{7}}\right) = 3$$

Example. Use the substitution method to solve the system

$$4x + 5y = 18 \quad (1)$$

$$3x - 9y = -12 \quad (2)$$

Elimination Method

Example. Solve the system $\begin{cases} 2x - 5y = 4 \\ x + 2y = 3 \end{cases}$

1. Multiply one or both equations by a nonzero number so the coefficients of one of the variables may cancel.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 2x - 5y = 4 \\ -2x - 4y = -6 \end{cases}$$

2. Add or subtract the equations to eliminate one of the variables.

$$0x - 9y = -2$$

3. Solve for the remaining variable.

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{2}{9}$$

4. Substitute solution in one of the original equations and solve for the other variable.

$$2x - 5\left(\frac{2}{9}\right) = 4 \Rightarrow x = \frac{23}{9}$$

5. Check the solution (x, y)

$$\begin{aligned} 2\left(\frac{23}{9}\right) - 5\left(\frac{2}{9}\right) &= 4 \\ \left(\frac{23}{9}\right) + 2\left(\frac{2}{9}\right) &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

Example. Use the elimination method to solve the following systems:

$$2x - 6y = -6$$

$$-x + 3y = -3$$

$$4x + 3y = 11$$

$$2x - 5y = -1$$

$$-4x + 3y = -2$$

$$8x - 6y = 4$$

Example. A woman has \$500,000 invested in two rental properties. One yields an annual return of 10% on her investment, and the other returns 12% per year on her investment. Her total annual return from the two investments is \$53,000. Let x represent the amount of the 10% investment and y represent the amount of the 12% investment.

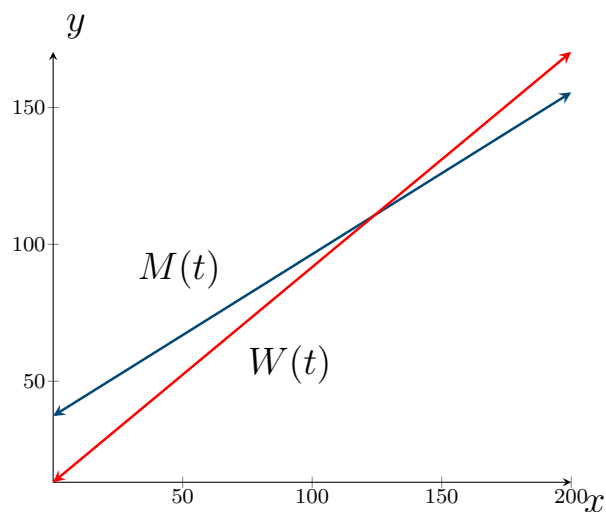
- Write an equation that states that the sum of investments is \$500,000.
- What is the annual return on the 10% investment? What about the 12% investment?
- Write an equation that states the sum of the annual return is \$53,000.
- Solve these two equations simultaneously to find how much is invested in each property.

Example. A nurse has two solutions that contain different concentrations of a certain medication. One is a 12.5% concentration, and the other is a 5% concentration. How many cubic centimeters of each should she mix to obtain 20 cubic centimeters of an 8% concentration?

Example. Using U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data for selected years from 1950 and projected to 2050, the number of men M and women W in the workforce (both in millions) can be modeled by the functions

$$M(t) = 0.591t + 37.3 \quad \text{and} \quad W(t) = 0.786t + 13.1$$

where t is the number of years after 1940. Find the year these functions predict that there will be equal numbers of men and women in the U.S. workforce.



1.6: Applications of Functions in Business and Economics

Definition.

Profit is the difference between the revenue and total cost:

$$P(x) = R(x) - C(x)$$

where

$P(x)$ = profit from sale of x units,

$R(x)$ = total revenue from sale of x units,

$C(x)$ = total cost from production and sale of x units.

Note: In general, the symbols used in economics are π , TR and TC respectively.

In general, **total revenue** is

$$\text{Revenue} = (\text{price per unit})(\text{number of units})$$

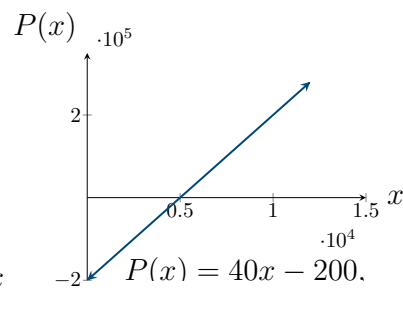
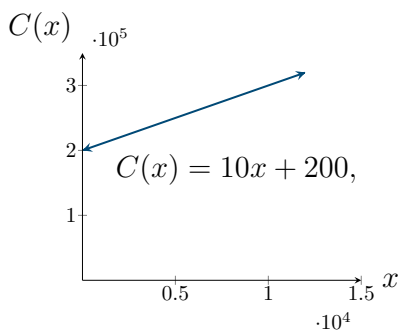
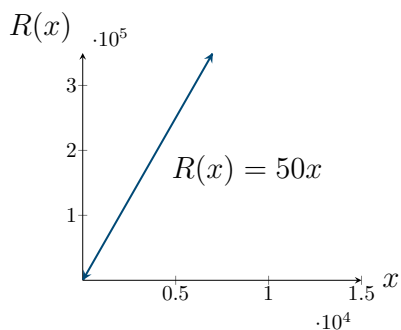
The **total cost** is composed of fixed cost and variable cost:

- **Fixed costs** (FC) remain constant regardless of the number of units produced.
- **Variable costs** (VC) are directly related to the number of units produced.

The total cost is given by

$$\text{Cost} = \text{variable costs} + \text{fixed costs}$$

Example. Suppose a firm manufactures MP3 players and sells them for \$50 each. The costs incurred in the production and sale of the MP3 players are \$200,000 plus \$10 for each player produced and sold. Write the profit function for the production and sale of x players.



Example. The ABC company produces widgets which sell at \$25 each. ABC can produce 30 widgets at a total cost of \$2,050, and 180 widgets at a total cost of \$4,300. Find the revenue, cost, and profit functions.

Definition. (Marginals)

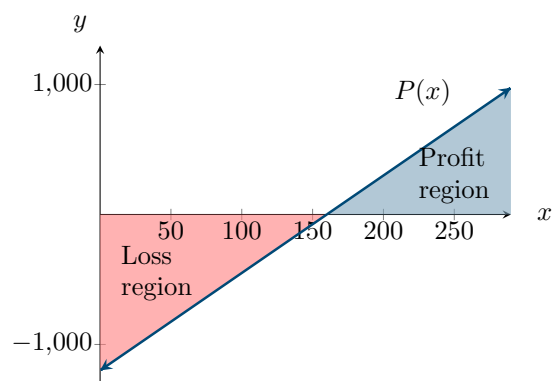
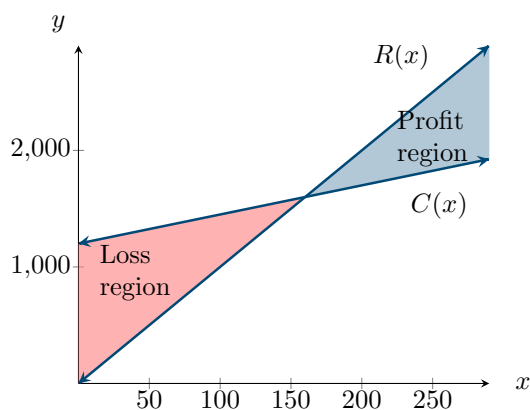
The

- **marginal profit** (\overline{MP}) is the rate of change in profit...
- **marginal cost** (\overline{MC}) is the rate of change in costs...
- **marginal revenue** (\overline{MR}) is the rate of change in revenue...

with respect to the number of units produced and sold. When these functions are linear, the marginals are given by the slope of their respective function.

Example. A manufacturer sells widgets for \$10 per unit. The manufacturer's variable costs are \$2.50 per unit, and the total cost of 100 units is \$1,450.

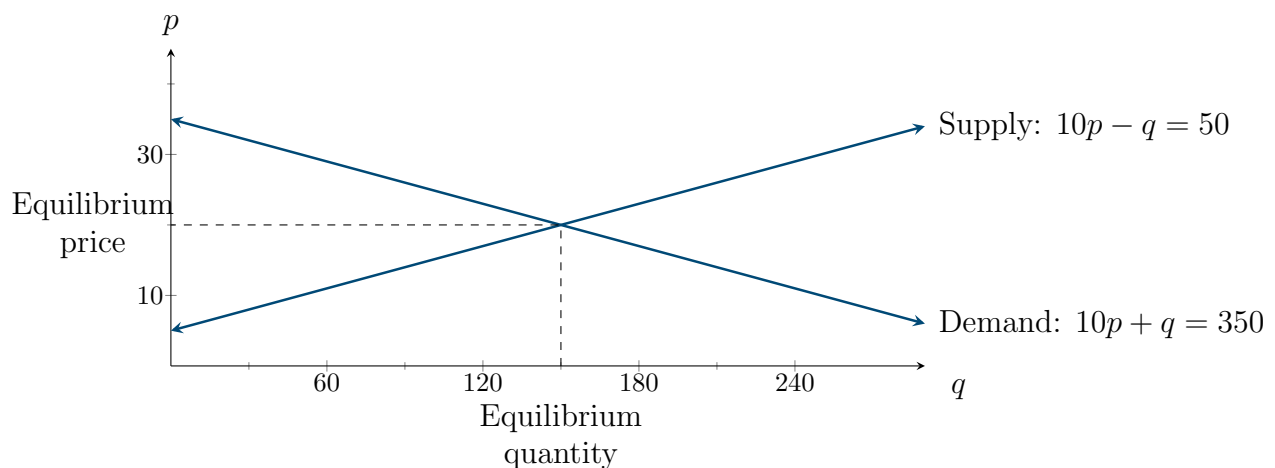
- Find the profit function. What are the marginal revenue, cost and profit?
- Find the break-even point (where $R(x) = C(x)$). What happens if we sell more or less than the break-even point?



Definition.

- **Market equilibrium** occurs when the quantity of a commodity demanded is equal to the quantity supplied.
- The **law of demand** states that the quantity demanded will decrease as the price increases
- The **law of supply** states that the quantity supplied will increase as the price increases

Example. Below is a graph containing a supply and demand curve. Find the market equilibrium.



Example. Find the market equilibrium point for the following demand and supply functions:

$$\text{Supply: } p = 2q + 170$$

$$\text{Demand: } p = -5q + 450$$

Example. Using the supply and demand functions above, modify the supply function to include a \$14 tax per unit sold, then find the new market equilibrium point.

Example. Retailers will buy 45 Wi-Fi routers from a wholesaler if the price is \$10 each but only 20 if the price is \$60. The wholesaler will supply 56 routers at \$42 each and 70 at \$50 each. Assuming that the supply and demand functions are linear, find the market equilibrium point.